

CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER

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Spellman Thrown For Loss In "Total War" on Barden Bill

The bloodcurdling words used by Francis Cardinal Spellman, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, in his denunciation on June 19 of Rep. Graham A. Barden (D., N. C.) for his championship of public funds for public schools only, have boomeranged sharply against the Cardinal. Confronted with the mounting indignation of eminent public figures and newspaper editorialists, the New York Archbishop found himself—momentarily, at least—at a loss for a reply.

Rep. Barden, besmirched by Cardinal Spellman as a "bigot" and a "disciple of discrimination" who "vented his venom" upon little children, contented himself with a simple, unemotional reply: "The (Barden) bill (H. R. 4643) does not discriminate against any group. We wanted the funds for paying teachers and buying books. If we start doling out transportation money we would be writing checks for Methodist orphanages, Baptist schools and all the others."

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, in her syndicated column, declared: "Those of us who believe in the right of any human being to belong to whatever church he sees fit, and to worship God in his own way, cannot be accused of prejudice when we do not want to see public education connected with religious control of the schools, which are paid for by taxpayers' money."

The Rev. George A. Crapullo, pastor of the Irving Square Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, New York, and a member of POAU's National Advisory Council, said that the Barden bill is in harmony with the stand recently taken by the Supreme Court, and pointed out that "the state does not support a Catholic police department to protect Catholics; the state does not support a Catholic fire department to protect Catholic property. Similarly, the state cannot support a Catholic school system to give children a Catholic education."

The *Washington Post*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, the *New York Daily Compass*, and other newspapers wrote editorials rebuking Cardinal Spellman for his violent distortions, and commending the principle which distinguished the Barden bill.

Glenn L. Archer, executive director of POAU, blasted the pugnacious Archbishop so strongly that a defensive statement was issued by Msgr. John S. Middleton, Cardinal Spellman's secretary for education, containing further distortions which Archer promptly nailed in a second press release. The demand for federal aid to parochial schools, Archer declared, runs counter to "the concept of religious freedom bequeathed to this nation by Thomas Jefferson, who said, 'To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical.'" Msgr. Middleton's assertion that the existence of Catholic schools saves American taxpayers money was characterized by Archer as the "favorite canard of sectarian educators who seek to raid the public treasury . . ." An unprejudiced reading of the Barden bill, he continued, would reveal to anyone that it does not restrict the right of parents to send their children to parochial schools, but simply makes clear that this right does not carry with it a "right" to do so at public expense."

G. Bromley Oxnam, Methodist bishop for the New York area and a vice-
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Aid to Sectarian Schools Denounced by Rabbis' Group

"Absolute devotion to the principle of religious freedom in America and the preservation of an unbreachable wall of separation between church and state" was pledged by 300 rabbis, representing congregations throughout the country, at the sixtieth annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, meeting in Bretton Woods, N. H., recently.

A unanimous resolution was adopted opposing federal or state aid to educational institutions maintained by religious groups, "Jewish or Christian," and stating the conviction that "the over-lapping of institutional machinery or processes between public school and church is in contradiction to the generally accepted meaning of our Constitution and the free life of our country." The convention went on record in favor of "a cooperative program of religious training for a community including all religious elements, Christian and Jewish, without violating the non-religious character of our public school system." The resolutions were adopted upon recommendation of the conference's Committee on Church and State, headed by Dr. Joseph L. Fink, of Buffalo, N. Y.

The annual conference sermon was delivered at morning services by Rabbi Abraham M. Granison of New York, assistant to the president of the Jewish Institute of Religion, who vigorously criticized false appeals for "good will" which would require the abandonment of sacred principles. "We cannot afford such programs of good will that keep us in perpetual motion without making any progress toward genuine brotherhood. We cannot afford the kind of so-called good will that demands of us that we drop our guard against the violation of the American principle of separation of church and state. . . ."

EPISCOPALIANS ASK PROBE OF NEW YORK SCHOOLS

A demand for a "thorough" and "objective" investigation of the New York City public school system was voiced recently by Bishop Charles K. Gilbert of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New York following a report of the diocese's Commission on Christian Social Relations. The report found that pupils' interests have been repeatedly sacrificed to the demands of certain religious and political pressure groups. The Episcopal Diocese, along with the Public Education Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Ethical Culture Society, the American Library Association and other groups and individuals, was thus squarely lined up against a politico-religious machine whose mouthpiece is the *Brooklyn Tablet*, official publication of the Brooklyn Roman Catholic Diocese, which has been extending its influence over public policy to an alarming degree.

In its report, the Commission on Christian Social Relations pointed to the curtailment of the Youthbuilders program which led to the resignation of Miss Ethel Dammrich from her post as director (*Church and State Newsletter*, June 1949), the banning of books like "Gentlemen's Agreement" and "One God—the Ways We Worship Him," and of magazines like the *Nation*, the rejection of Bryn J. Hovde for the presidency of Queens College (*Church and State Newsletter*, April 1949), the decision to restore May Quinn, violently pro-Catholic and anti-Semitic teacher, to her job in a Brooklyn public school, and Board of Education politics generally, as evidence that the authorities have cravenly submitted to the dictates of the *Tablet*.

Calling particular attention to the significance of the ban on the book, "One God—the Ways We Worship Him," the Commission's report stated that the book's "sympathetic interpretation" of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religions was deemed undesirable by the public school authorities who placed the ban.

Only two weeks earlier, a report on "Released Time in the New York City Schools, 1949," issued by the Public Education Association under the direction of New York University Professor Dan W. Dodson, came to the conclusion that this system of religious education in the public schools should be abandoned because of "inherent difficulties" in its operation. It made its recommendation not only because of the "tension" and "controversy" which the system has aroused among religious groups, but also because many of the children enrolled for released time classes use the period as an opportunity for truancy. Figures were given in the report on the percentage of each religious group which is enrolled in the classes. They were: 81.43 per cent Roman Catholic, 13.36 per cent Protestant and 5.18 per cent Jewish—a clear indication that Roman Catholic parents are the chief patrons of the system.

Massachusetts Physicians Gagged

Four physicians who had been dismissed from the staff of Farren Memorial Hospital at Greenfield, Mass., for advocating birth control legislation, met recently with hospital authorities in an effort to find some *modus vivendi* under which they might be reinstated. According to a statement which one of them made to the editors of the *Nation* later:

"We were informed, verbally, that we might be reinstated if we agreed to the following: not to resign immediately after reinstatement; to abide by the rules of the hospital; to announce that we regret our error, confess our wrong, and admit our mistake; to promise to make no public stand on birth control or kindred subjects which might be in opposition to the stand of the Roman Catholic church; to resign first if we contemplate taking such a stand; and to resign from the Planned Parenthood League and similar organizations. It was strongly implied, furthermore, that we were not to make any public statement or commit any public act without checking with the hospital authorities. Needless to say, none of us have accepted these terms."

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Carmack in the Christian Science Monitor

MOTIVE FOR AIDING PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

Hensley Issues Judgment Implementing Dixon Edict

Judge E. Turner Hensley of the District Court at Santa Fe, N. M., whose decision in the Dixon case marked a sweeping victory for the plaintiffs and for the concept of church-state separation, has just denied the defendants' motion to modify or throw out 81 of 93 findings in the decision. Instead, he issued an 11-page judgment which reaffirmed all the major points of the earlier decree, implemented with a permanent injunction forbidding the New Mexico school authorities from renewing or continuing their former practice of diverting public aid to parochial schools.

The nation now waits to see whether Attorney General Joe L. Martinez and other officials will persist in their effort to find "loopholes" in the Judge's decision, or act to carry out the law like honest public servants. If they adopt the latter course, then they will have to renounce such sharper's tricks as Martinez recently dreamed up, when he "suggested" that Judge Hensley's decision referred to schools, and not to the children themselves, and that the illicit aid to parochial schools might be legitimized by pretending that it was aid to the pupils. This sort of thing is evasion pure and simple.

OUR NEW FORMAT

This issue of the *Church and State Newsletter* is changed in format in order to give you more news within the same space, and also in order to improve its appearance. We hope you like it.

(Continued from page 1)

president of POAU, stated that Congressman Barden "deserves the commendation of the country rather than the condemnation of a Cardinal." Examining Cardinal Spellman's use of the term "bigot," Oxnam said that in the Cardinal's vocabulary the word meant "Anyone who disagrees with the Cardinal or who objects to the hierarchy putting its hands in the public treasury..."

Although the Barden bill has the endorsement of 10 of the 13 members of the House subcommittee on education which Barden heads, an attack upon him was made at a committee meeting by Rep. John Lesinski, chairman of the larger House Labor Committee to which the subcommittee is attached. Lesinski's words—"anti-religious" and "antiCatholic"—were a close echo of Cardinal Spellman's, as Barden immediately pointed out. POAU director Archer, following through on this phase of the war of words, commented to the press that Rep. Lesinski was one of several Congressmen and Senators who, when the Roman Catholic hierarchy cracks the whip, "roll over and jump through the hoop." "Is not this state of affairs," he asked, "as shameful, and as dangerous to the American way of life, as the existence of Communist lackeys who follow the Soviet 'party line'?"

Trexler, National Advisor, Dies

The recent death of the Rev. Dr. Samuel G. Trexler, head of the New York and New England Synod of the United Lutheran Church, represents a loss not only to the church which he served so ably during a long and distinguished career, but also to POAU and the cause of religious freedom. Dr. Trexler was a member of POAU's National Advisory Council.

Note to California POAU'ers—

The temporary arrangement whereby John C. Moore, secretary of the School Facts Committees in California, has endeavored to further POAU activities in the state, has been discontinued. This step has been taken by the Executive Committee in order to avoid conflicts of authority and overlapping of organizations. It is our intention to establish regular branches of POAU in California on the same sound basis as in other states, with representative and responsible leadership. Until then, we ask contributors to our cause to give their support directly to our central office in Washington, D. C.

POAU Views Supported In Britain, Canada

A recent debate in the British House of Commons gave evidence that the principle of church-state separation is attracting increased support in England. In discussing a bill dealing with the remuneration of Anglican clergymen, Home Secretary James Chuter Ede said that "submission of intimate details of a great Church to an assembly which no longer admits religious tests in regard to its membership" was an "anachronism," and concluded: "It would be an advantage to the Church itself, and in keeping with modern views, if the Church were disestablished."

Mr. Ede's stand harmonized with the position of the British Liberation Society (The Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control), a century-old body which recently passed a resolution noting "with great satisfaction that an organization has been constituted in the United States in order to uphold and defend the principle incorporated in the American Constitution, whereby in the interests of religious freedom, the civil power is debarred from showing favour to any form of religion, thus making clear the separate functions of Church and State." The resolution sent "heartily congratulations to the new organisation (known as 'Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State') with every good wish for the successful prosecution of their work in resisting all encroachments upon the

constitutional principle aforesaid."

While concern over the evils of establishment agitates England, concern over governmental relations with the Vatican agitates Canada. A unanimous resolution of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada called upon the party winning the elections of June 27 to resist the current propaganda campaign which seeks the appointment of an envoy to the Pope. Previously, Bishop A. R. Beverly of the Toronto diocesan synod of the Church of England in Canada delivered an address in which he firmly opposed "the recognition of the Roman Church as a political power, or of the Vatican as a State." He added that although no Canadian party openly advocated appointment of an envoy to the Vatican, there was a persistent rumor that such an appointment is contemplated.

ALABAMA OFFICERS ELECTED

The newly-formed Alabama unit of POAU has elected the top officers who will lead the chapter in a coordinated state-wide drive to enlist a significant portion of the population in the work of POAU. Dr. Howard M. Reaves, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Mobile, is president; Dr. J. Emmett Moore, pastor, of the First Christian Church, Montgomery, is vice-president; and Dr. C. Byrd Harbour, pastor of the Government Street Methodist Church, Mobile, is secretary-treasurer. Other vice-presidents are yet to be chosen.

Charter members of the Alabama unit include Dr. L. E. Barton, Montgomery; H. Richard Bills, Prattville; B. B. Burks, Gadsden; Clarke E. Burkhalter, Sylacauga; Royal Callaway, Sylacauga; R. A. Clifton, Tuscaloosa; C. M. Clinkscales, Wilsonville; Athol D. Cloud, Mobile; Melvin W. Coleman, Sylacauga; R. B. Curry, Wilton; W. T. Edwards, Wilsonville; M. C. Elmore, Georgetown, Ga.; Julian W. Fagan, Pell City; J. E. Franks, Columbiana; Dr. J. C. Frist, Mobile; Dr. L. L. Gwaltney, Birmingham; Edward Glover, Mobile; J. V. James, Gadsden; and Dr. B. R. Justice, Enterprise.

Also, Richard L. Keel, Monroeville; R. J. Lawrence, Union Springs; C. L. Morrison, Prattville; Lincoln Newman, Childersburg; Dr. Wiley D. Ogletree, Birmingham; L. Reed Polk, Monroeville; Dr. Garnett E. Puckett, Attalla; Dr. Chester L. Quarles, Sylacauga; W. Paschal Reeves, Jr., Union Springs; Dr. D. M. Rivers, Montgomery; John B. Rollins, Thorsby; T. A. Russell, Montgomery; H. S. Sauls, Mobile; O. M. Sell, Prattville; George Slater, Sylacauga; Dr. John L. Slaughter, Birmingham; D. T. Smith, Gadsden; T. Clyde Spear, Montgomery; A. L. Strozier, Enterprise; J. C. Stivender, Tuskegee; Dr. Horace G. Williams, Tuscaloosa; G. G. Williams, Wilton; Dr. V. L. Wyatt, Montgomery; and J. Huie Zeigler, Jack.

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1835 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

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Zoning Board Abuses Power To Bar POAU from Headquarters Building

Four months ago, the *Church and State Newsletter* announced to POAU members the purchase of a three-story building at 1633 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C., to serve as a new and more suitable headquarters for the organization. Now, we are forced to announce that we have been barred from entry into the building by the Zoning Adjustment Board of the District of Columbia in a 3-2 decision. During this period of protracted delay, POAU entered two appeals before the Board, but could not inform our members of developments for fear of prejudicing our case. The sequence of events was as follows:

Purchase of the building on February 25th, after having made inquiry of Zoning Board officials and receiving private assurances that we could move in.

Announcement by Zoning Adjustment Board three days later of changes in its regulations to prohibit use of buildings for certain activities which had been unrestricted before.

Appearance of POAU on March 30 for hearing on our application for admission to the building—located in a "C" Area District—as a non-profit organization. After extensive questioning by one member of the Board who seemed decidedly hostile to POAU as an organization, POAU was denied entrance to the building on the grounds that we "engage in propaganda to influence legislation," and this was prohibited by one of the new zoning regulations.

Filing of an appeal by POAU—at the suggestion of the Board chairman—under another zoning regulation which admits "philanthropic" organizations to such an area.

Hearing on the appeal, June 22nd. Appeal denied, on the ground that POAU is not a "philanthropic" organization.

A glance at the list of owners of neighboring buildings in the 1600 block of Massachusetts Avenue would con-

vince any impartial observer that POAU was discriminated against. The Catholic Daughters of America, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the National Jewish Welfare Board—each of which is as much interested in legislation as POAU—maintain offices on the block. (The National Catholic Welfare Conference occupies a building on the 1300 block of Massachusetts Avenue, also a "C" Area District.) There are only two private residents on the 1600 block, and neither had any objection to POAU as a neighbor. Although nominally a "residential" block, the other occupants, in addition to the organizations and the two private residents, are embassies, the Rent Control Administrator, a "Truth Society," the Society for Crippled Children, and several doctors and lawyers who have offices there.

POAU will not be stopped by this obstacle placed in our path by an unseen influence on a local board. A court test of the decision is being considered.

VIRGINIA UNIT FORMED

The first POAU unit in the state of Virginia was formally launched at a recent meeting in Franklin. The unit, adopting the name of the "Suffolk-Franklin Area Chapter" of POAU, is headed by the Rev. N. B. Habel, pastor of the Boykins Baptist Church, and the Rev. W. L. Sturtevant, Methodist minister, also of Boykins, who were elected co-presidents. Mr. Sturtevant, in a statement on behalf of the chapter, welcomed people of all beliefs into the organization so long as they endorse the American Constitutional guarantee of separation of church and state.

Emphasizing that POAU is not a movement *against* any group but rather a crusade for the freedom of all groups, Mr. Sturtevant declared: "There is no place in POAU for religious bigots, because our crusade is not in the realm of religious doctrine or faith. Our crusade is one that stands to uphold the First Amendment of the United States Constitution which prohibits any move in our country to unite the institutional functions of church and state. We are not ashamed to fight to uphold our nation's law. All citizens who believe in this principle of the separation of church and state are invited to join us, regardless of their religious faith."

Members of the executive committee of the Suffolk-Franklin Area Chapter include W. B. Ellis and LeRoy Magette, of Courtland; W. B. Gillette, of Capron; B. C. Edwards and L. O. Tyler, of Branchville; Howard J. Barrett and Hugh Powell, of Boykins; and the Rev. Randolph L. Gregory, pastor of the Franklin Baptist Church.

Mr. Sturtevant has been appointed Virginia regional representative of POAU.

Methodist Bishop Lauds Public Schools

The assertion that our public schools are "godless" is one of the "greatest fallacies" of our day and should be "branded as a lie whenever uttered regardless of the source," Bishop John Wesley Lord, Methodist leader of the Boston area, told the 109th New England Southern Conference of the Methodist Church recently at Fall River, Mass.

"We need only to consult the judges in our juvenile courts," he said, "to learn the facts concerning the successful work that is being done in our public schools."

Bishop Lord suggested that three of the most important values inculcated in children by the public schools are religious in nature: "First, . . . moral courage; second, a cooperative spirit; and third, a creative faith."

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